

# FIELD APPLICATION OF ON-LINE COAL FLOW BALANCING TECHNOLOGY

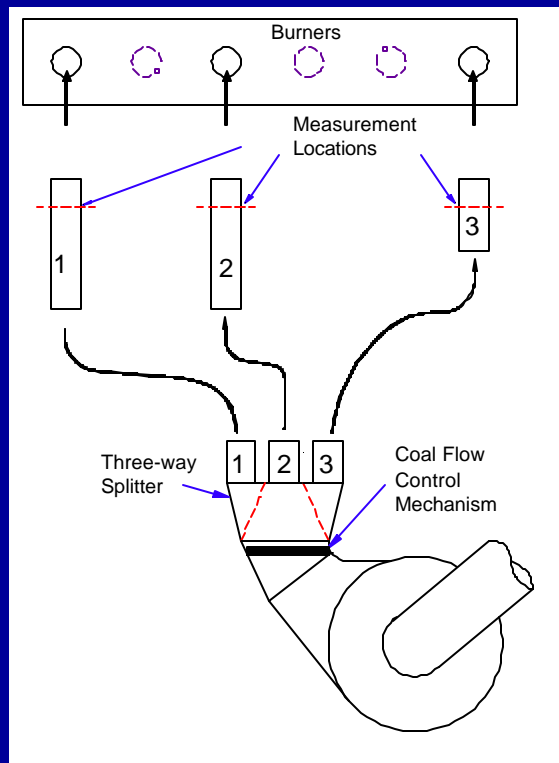
Dr. Harun Bilirgen, Energy Research Center, Lehigh University  
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## REASONS FOR COAL FLOW BALANCING

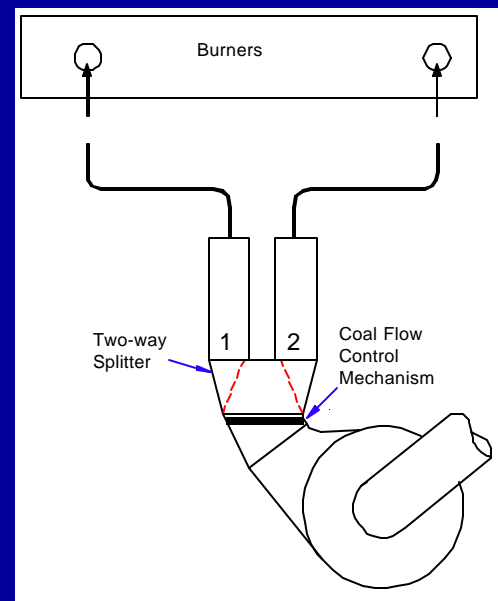
- ❑ Improve Performance - Reduce Emissions
  - Unburned Carbon
  - $\text{NO}_x$
  - CO
  - ESP Performance
  - Steam Temperatures
- ❑ Reduce Maintenance Costs
  - Localized Slagging and Waterwall Wastage
  - Coal Pipe Plugging - Windbox Fires
  - Damage to Burner Tips
  - Slag Buildup on Burners
  - Coal Pipe Erosion

## FIELD TESTS WERE PERFORMED IN TWO WALL-FIRED UNITS FOR TWO- AND THREE-WAY RIFFLERS

- ❑ Modified ASME and Dirty Air Probes were Used for Coal and Air Flow Measurements, Respectively
- ❑ Coal Flow Balance Within  $\pm 5$  Percent
- ❑ Negligible Impact on Air Flow Distribution



**Three-Way Splitter with a Riffler**



**Two-Way Splitter with a Riffler**

## OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Close Control Over Coal Flow Distribution
- ❑ Negligible Impact on Air Flow Distribution
- ❑ On-Line Adjustments (Manual or Automated)



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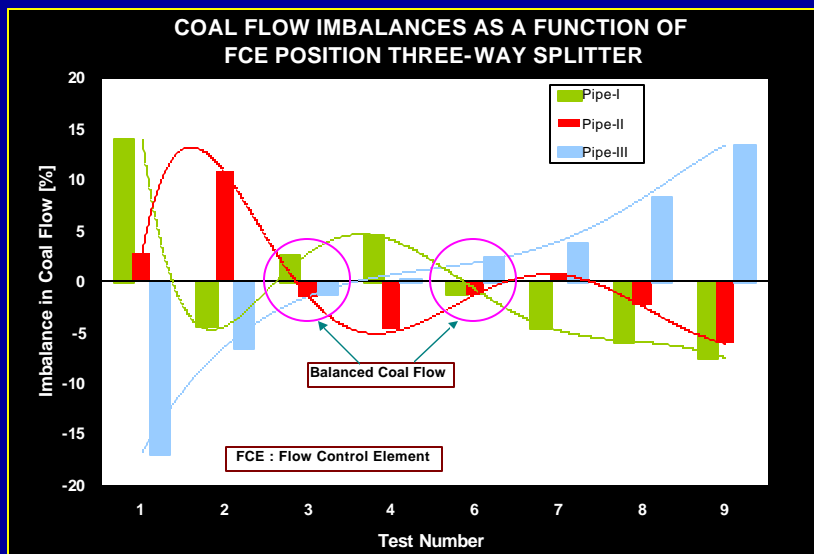
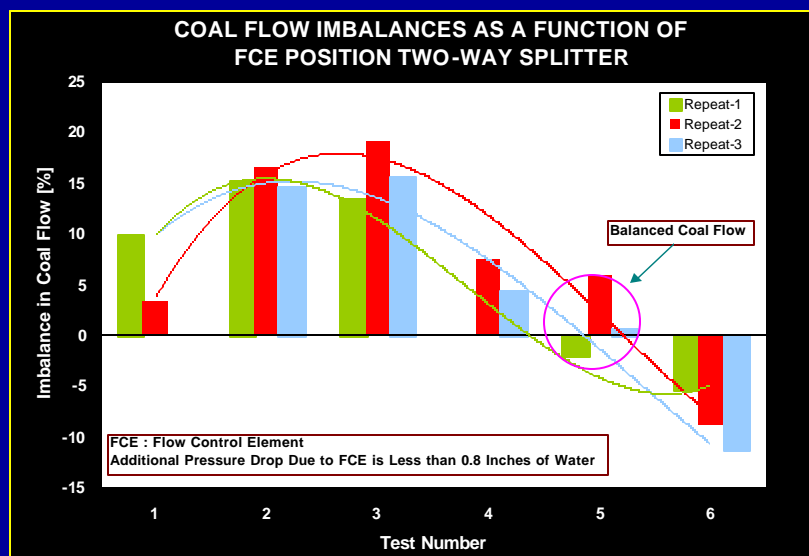


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## FIELD TEST RESULTS – TWO-WAY SPLITTER WITH FCE

- ❑ Pipe-to-Pipe Coal Flow Imbalances were Varied from as much as + 20 Percent to as low as - 10 Percent as Adjustments were Made to the FCE Position.
- ❑ The Effect of FCE Position on Primary Air Flow Rate was Almost Negligible. Less than 3 Percent Change was Observed in Primary Air Flow Rate.
- ❑ Additional Pressure Drop Due to FCE was Measured Between 0.4 and 0.8 Inches of Water.
- ❑ Visual Observations Indicated Considerable Changes in the Flame Color as a Function of the FCE Position.



## FIELD TEST RESULTS – THREE-WAY SPLITTER WITH FCE

- ❑ Flow Control Mechanism Improved Pipe-to-Pipe Coal Flow Imbalances From -18 Percent Less than 1 Percent in Pipe III.
- ❑ A Balanced Coal Flow Distribution was Achieved For Two Different Positions of FCE.
- ❑ Results Indicated that Coal Flow Distribution Among Outlet Pipes Could be Varied as Needed.



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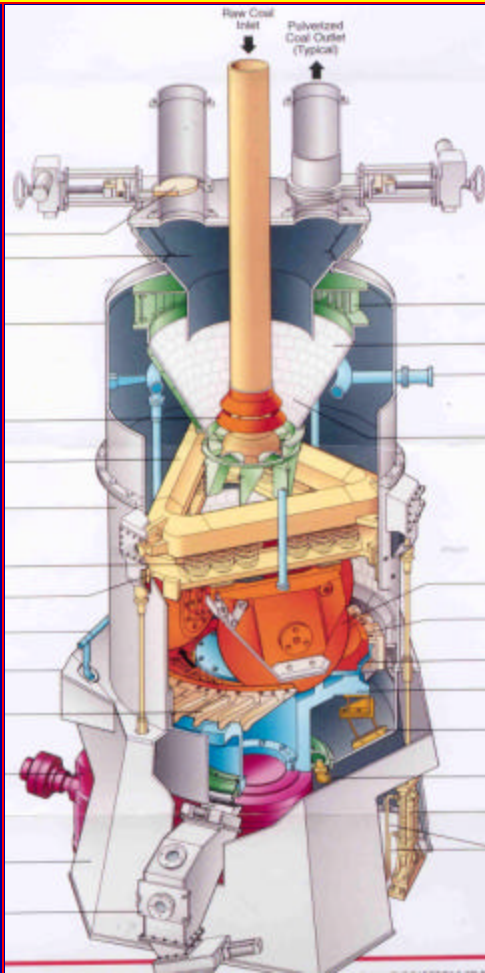
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## FUTURE WORK – COAL FLOW CONTROL IN PRESSURIZED VERTICAL SPINDLE MILLS



## CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

- ❑ Field Tests Confirmed that Coal Flow Control Mechanism Developed by the Energy Research Center Could Balance the Coal Flow Among Outlet Pipes Within  $\pm 5$  Percent.
- ❑ The Insensitivity of Air Flow Distribution to FCE Setting Greatly Simplifies the Balancing Process.
- ❑ Implementation of this Technology in Coal-Fired Power Plants to Investigate the Effect of Coal Flow Balancing on Overall Combustion Efficiency and Emissions.
- ❑ Developing a New Technology to Balance Coal Flows in Vertical Pressurized Mills Using Similar Flow Fundamentals.



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